FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 OCTOBER 1985

Israel

Bomb Attack — Two bombs exploded in the 'Afula market 23 October, wounding four people, IDF radio reported. Police forces cordoned off the area and began arresting suspects.

Reaction to Peres Speech — In contrast to some of his Likud colleagues, Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Arens stated that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' UN General Assembly speech did not include digressions from the National Unity Government guidelines and he said it will not cause a government crisis, Jerusalem radio reported. In New York, Peres said Jordan's attitude toward his proposals should not be judged on immediate responses, the radio noted, and he contended that Jordan may be having second thoughts on the PLO. The radio broadcast his remark that if Syria and Jordan have really reached an agreement, Jordan may have decided that the PLO is "not a partner." PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'abd al-Rahman said the proposals are a "new edition of the Camp David accords which have been rejected by the Arab nation, TAP reported. He agreed with Peres' proposal to convene an international conference but said the PLO must be represented on an equal footing with the other participants. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio stated that Peres' call for direct negotiations with Jordan is Israel's old strategy of trying to conclude separate deals with each Arab state. The radio said Israel's plan is that Jordan will be accused of wasting peace opportunities if it rejects Peres' proposals, but if it accepts them this will create more disturbances and divisions in the Arab world.

Inter-Arab Affairs

A high-level Jordanian delegation will visit Damascus soon in accordance with the Riyadh agreement, which is aimed at restoring normal relations between the two countries, KUNA reported. As for Jordan's relations with the PLO, a Palestinian source cited by Amman's *AL-RA'Y* disclosed that King Husayn met with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan 22 October, noting that Al-Hasan delivered a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Egyptian papers cited by MENA spoke of President Husni Mubarak's "surprise and extreme regret" over the talks in Kuwait between 'Arafat and several Egyptian opposition leaders. The papers also criticized "irresponsible" statements by some PLO leaders reflecting their "lack of appreciation" for Egypt's stand over recent events. Tunis radio announced that Tunisia "regrets" Egyptian accusations concerning "the role which Tunisia might have played in the issue of the plane whose course was changed by the United States."

Iran-Iraq War

Although IRNA announced that Iranian forces launched a "limited" offensive in the Sumar area, killing or wounding over 170 Iraqis, an Iraqi military source told INA that the Iranian attack against Iraq's II Army Corps was "crushed" and the Iraqis sustained no losses.

Negotiations are "progressing rapidly" between Iran and the PRC for the sale of Chinese surface-to-surface missiles, according to a "highly reliable" source in Beijing cited by AFP. While the PRC has denied selling arms to Iran, AFP's source said that PRC-Iranian talks began in June for the sale of older-generation Scud 1a and 1b missiles.

Lebanon

After meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, Lebanese Forces leader Elie Hubayqah stressed that "everything is moving in the right direction" and confirmed that he expects to meet with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt very soon, Beirut radio reported.

Sudan

A military spokesman in Khartoum stated that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has violated the recent cease-fire announced by its leader, John Garang, SUNA reported. The spokesman cited four such violations since 19 October, the cease-fire date set by Garang. On the other hand, SPLA sources accused the Sudanese Army of violating the cease-fire by attacking SPLA positions, the clandestine SPLA radio announced. Holding the Transitional Military Council "exclusively responsible" for subverting the process of national dialogue, an SPLA spokesman cited by the radio maintained that his side will fight only in self-defense during the cease-fire period.

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SAARC Summit To Mark Start of Regional Association

HK180933 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 18 (AFP) — The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be formally launched here at a seven-nation summit in early December, Bangladesh officials say.

The December 7 and 8 summit, at the invitation of Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammed Ershad, is to be attended by the heads of state of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and The Maldives.

The idea to create a regional cooperation body was first put forward in November 1980 by former Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in May 1981, but it was not until August 1983 that the seven countries finally agreed to SAARC's formation.

Since then, the seven countries' foreign ministers have met three times, most recently in Thimpu, Bhutan, in May, when the December summit was agreed.

Shafi Sami, the summit's main coordinator at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, said SAARC'S creation should enable the countries of the region to gain international weight corresponding to the size of their populations, totalling about a billion people.

The countries have little in common, whether on the cultural, economic or political level: The powerful Indian democracy of some 750 million people has as neighbours the tiny Maldives Republic of some 150,000 people spread over some 300 islands in the Indian Ocean, the military regimes of Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the Himalayan kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan.

But the leaders of these countries have nonetheless sought to create a regional solidarity which has already showed signs of success in such areas as communications, meteorology, energy, health and culture.

According to Mr Sami, the heads of state at the summit are to adopt two texts.

These are a charter, which is nearly finalized and will serve as SAARC's basic document establishing cooperation between the seven, and a declaration expressing the participants' common views on several political and economic issues of international importance, the terms of which are still under discussion.

Diplomatic sources said the declaration was expected to be based on "the smallest common denominator" of the positions expressed by the seven countries in the international bodies of which they are members.

Some, but not all, are members of the Nonaligned Movement, members of the Islamic Conference or of the Commonwealth.

But SAARC's promoters say it will mainly be an expression of regional solidarity among countries, which include some of the least developed in the world.

Through a more frequent dialogue, they said, it would also help defuse potential conflicts, such as between India and neighbouring Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Because of the opposition of some members, SAARC will not have a permanent secretariat. The organization's future institutionalization will depend on its initial results.

Security Forces 'Crush' Counterrevolutionaries

LD221726 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Quoting a security source, BAKHTAR reports that security forces in Somochak region of Paghman District have seized 19 ground-to-ground missiles; three rocket launchers; one DShK with 1,000 rounds of ammunition; two antitank mines; and 29 assorted Chinese, Egyptian, and American weapons, including Kalashnikovs, 303 rifles, and assorted pistols.

As a result of successful operations by the country's vigilant security forces in the area of Dowshi district and Khenjan subdistrict, Baghlan Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements belonging to Jamiyat and Gulbuddin's bands were crushed; 20 criminals were captured together with 87 assorted weapons, two DShK's, five mortars, and 11 rocket launchers. As a result of these operations, 10 hideouts and one weapons and ammunition store of the enemy have been destroyed and a quantity of anti-state documents and leaflets have been seized. About 5 million afghanis worth of property, which had been plundered by these thieves, was discovered by the country's security forces and will be handed over to the owners.

USSR Survey Contract for Second Dam Signed

LD222349 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] A contract for a survey and a technical and economic study of the second Sorobi hydroelectric power station project was concluded and signed this morning between the Ministry of Electric Power and the USSR All Union Tekhnopromeksport Association.

This project, with a planned capacity of 81,000 kwh will be built on the Kabul River some distance below the present hydroelectric power station at Sorobi.

This project, which will cost $80 million or 4 billion afghanis, is regarded as the most economical project for generating hydroelectric energy. It will remove to a considerable extent the difficulties stemming from a shortage of electric energy in Kabul City due to the rapid progress of the construction of houses, government offices, and private factories.

The BIA correspondent adds that the work on a survey and study of the major power generating hydro-electric station of the second Sorobi project will be completed by the end of 1367 [1988 to 1989] according to the contract by the experts of the USSR All Union Technopromeksport Association with the cooperation of Afghan engineers.

The construction of this project will begin in 1368 in two stages.

This project will be financed through the long-term 1985 credit agreement with the Soviet Union and the development budget of the DRA Government.

The contract on this project was signed and its documents were exchanged this morning by Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of electric power and a representative of the USSR All Union Technopromeksport Association.

SPA: Afghan Mujahidin Attack Kabul Airport

GF221410 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin attacked Kabul airport with rockets and machineguns. The mujahidin also downed five helicopters and a fighter plane during their operations in other parts of Afghanistan between 11 and 13 October. Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said that the attack on the Kabul airport was part of a 3 hour offensive during which fighting broke out on Saturday.

Radio Cites PRAVDA on Pakistani Nuclear Test
BK221359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] The Soviet newspaper *PRAVDA* says Pakistan is resorting to more and more aggressive actions against India. Dismissing Islamabad's claim that its nuclear activities are purely of research nature, the paper today says Pakistan has either already tested nuclear weapons in Xinjiang or is on the verge of doing so.

Criticizing the United States for making Pakistan an obedient partner, it says so long as the flow of U.S. arms into Pakistan continues, Pakistan's foreign policy will remain unchanged. The daily points out the overwhelming portion of Pakistan Armed Forces was concentrated on Indian borders.

Punjab Chief Says Violence Will Not Be Tolerated
BK220400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said his government will not tolerate any act of violence in the state. Talking to newsmen after a high-level meeting to review the general law and order situation in the state at Ludhiana yesterday, he said the government is determined to provide peace and security to the people, irrespective of their caste and creed.

In reply to a question, Mr Barnala said extremists seem to be behind the killing of the Congress-I leader, Mr Rajpal Kang, in Gurdaspur District. Efforts are on to catch the criminals. A commissioner-rank officer has been deputed to inquire into the murder, Mr Barnala added.

Two Sikhs Killed in Maharashtra, Manhunt On
HK230432 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 23 (AFP) — Two Sikhs were shot dead in Maharashtra State in the west while in Punjab three people were wounded in similar shootouts involving unidentified gunmen yesterday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reports said.

The killings in Maharashtra took place in a "gurdwara" (Sikh shrine) in Nanded township, 375 kilometres (234 miles) to the east of Bombay.

Nanded District collector Amitab Rajan was quoted as saying that the Sikhs came from Punjab to attend the Hindu "Dussehra" religious festival, now being celebrated in various parts of India. They were resting in a local gurdwara when unidentified assailants attacked them.

A state-wide manhunt was on to track down the assailants.

Mr Rajan identified the two dead as Kahan Singh and his bodyguard, Sikha Singh. Sections of Hindus worshipping at the gurdwaras or Sikhs praying at Hindu temples or members of the two communities taking part in each other's religious festivals on occasions have not been very rare, though the fundamentalists among the Sikhs argue that theirs is a separate nation with a distinct identity of its own.

No details were available about the incident.

Meanwhile, a Hindu leader in Maharashtra demanded yesterday that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ask British authorities to extradite separatist Sikh Khalistan (homeland) leader Jagjit Singh Chauhan to India, a separate PTI dispatch said.

Balasaheb Thackery, chief of the pro-Hindu Shiv Sena (Army of the Hindu Lord Shiva), told a public rally in bombay that "if the prime minister was not prepared to make this demand, then the Shiv Sena has volunteers who will take care of the matter... "

Mr Thackery said the Khalistanis were indulging in terrorist acts and that they must stop.

In Punjab, three unidentified gunmen shot and wounded two people in a bid to rob one of the customers in a local bank in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar yesterday. The wounded were a customer and the security man of the bank. The assailants escaped.

Another PTI dispatch from Jalandhar said two unidentified youths fired at a local Hindu shopkeeper and snatched his scooter. The victim was returning to his house on the two-wheeler when he was suddenly attacked. No immediate arrest was reported.

Found Piece of Air India Jet Supports Bomb Theory
HK221524 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 22 (AFP) — A piece of the Air India jumbo jet which crashed into the sea off Ireland last June has been found with burn marks on it, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today.

Sources close to the inquiry commissioner of justice B.N. Kirpal told PTI that the United Kingdom's accident investigation board was in possession of the piece of wreckage, which had been found floating off the English coast.

They said the piece had a lot of burn marks, which appeared to support the theory that the Boeing 747 blew up in mid-air following an explosion.

Indian officials have said they suspect sabotage as the cause of the June 23 crash, which killed all 329 people aboard the plane.

The piece of wreckage had been subjected to detailed examination by the accident investigation board, PTI said, but gave no further details.

On Sunday, *THE TIMES OF INDIA* correspondent reported from London that salvage teams at Cork in Ireland had recovered five important pieces of wreckage, including one which pointed to the possibility of a bomb explosion as the cause of the crash.

The report quoted some officials of the U.S. National Transport Safety Board as saying that a portion of the lower skin of the forward luggage hold had been found. The piece measured 10 feet by 12 feet (three by 3.6 meters) and contained 30 holes, pierced from inside.

The officials were quoted as saying the perforations did not appear to have been caused by the normal break-up of the plane. But they said the evidence was not conclusive and would have to be corroborated by metallurgical tests, the paper added.

Junejo on Constitution Amendment, Martial Law

BK221539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said the adoption of the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill by the National Assembly is a milestone in the complete revival of democracy in the country. Addressing an open public meeting in Shahdadpur in Sanghar District, he said that throughout the debate on the bill in the National Assembly it was his endeavor to achieve complete consensus on the issue. The entire country was watching for the elected representatives to approve positive steps to lift martial law and restore the Constitution. He added that it was because of the unitiring efforts of the elected representatives and their political wisdom that we were able to make important amendments to the Constitution. Mohammad Khan Junejo said that through the amendment bill a balance has been created between the powers of the president and the prime minister. He expressed the hope that under the balance of powers created in the Constitution, we will now be able to eliminate martial law forever.

The prime minister reiterated that martial law will be lifted before 31 December of this year and, God willing, martial law will never again be imposed on the country. He said the elected representatives of the people had been busy serving the nation with all their ability. He said that, with the passage of time and the lifting of martial law, the civilian government will be able to serve the people more effectively. Mr Junejo said any decision regarding the future role of political parties in the country will be made by the present civilian government. He said he believed that the political parties will be activated at the appropriate time to play their role in leading the people. The prime minister said that until that appropriate time he wants the elected representatives to serve their constituents to the best of their ability. He added that for this purpose efforts have been made to give maximum powers to the elected representatives.

Shahnawaz Bhutto Reportedly Died from Poisoning

AU221654 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Nice, France, Oct 22 (AFP) — Shahnawaz Bhutto, son of executed Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, died from a powerful but hard-to-detect poison, an informed source said here today.

The source said that Mr. Bhutto, who was found dead in his luxuty apartment in nearby Cannes last July 28, was poisoned by a substance manufactured by the Syrian secret service. He always kept some on his person, the source said.

The poison, a rare one, leaves few traces and is extremely volatile. The Syrian Secret Service, according to the source, equips its agents with the poison, which has an effect like cyanide.

The source did not say how the deadly substance had been administered, although a lawyer for Shahnawaz Bhutto's widow, who was detained today, has suggested Mr. Bhutto committed suicide because of personal problems.

Mr. Bhutto, aged 27, had a Syrian diplomatic passport like his brother Murtazar, aged 41, now a political refugee in Damascus.

Bhutto's Wife Detained

BK230236 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Text] According to news agency reports, the police detained Mrs Rehana Bhutto, the widow of late Shahnawaz Bhutto, in Nice in southern France on Monday. The police are investigating the death of her husband who was found dead in his apartment in Cannes in July.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Majlis Session 22 Oct
LD221657 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — Deputies speaking in the open session of the Majlis here Tuesday, discussed composition of the future government and stressed importance of a harmonious cabinet.

During the session, chaired by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, several more articles of the Press Law were approved.

Deputy from Lanjan, Isfahan Province, 'Ali Asghar Mortezaie, was the first speaker of the session who urged officials of the three branches of the government to rally behind the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He further pointed out that Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi should be given an all-out support by the Majlis.

The deputy from Ardestan, Isfahan Province, Yahya Sultani, talked about the importance of Imam Khomeyni's leadership and stressed the necessity for a honmonious cabinet.

The deputy from Babol, Mazandaran Province, Valiollah Zamani, referring to characteristics of the forthcoming cabinet, said that the ministers must be committed and competent.

The session ended at noon and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning.

Report on Ayatollah Montazeri Speech on Majlis
LD221853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Report on 12 October speech by Ayatollah Montazeri, delivered to Majlis deputies in Qom, on the duties of the Majlis]

[Text] On the eve of the start of the new cabinet, about 100 Majlis deputies met with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday and discussed important national issues.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri gave a speech in which he referred to the public's knowledge of the deputies and the elections, saying: Thanks to the revolution, our people have attained a wonderful awareness and maturity, so that many people coming to our country from abroad admit that the Iranian nation has achieved great awareness and maturity. that even Iranian farmers and laborers analyze and judge political issues. This is rare among other countries, Islamic countries included.

Referring to the adverse propaganda by the mass media of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution about the Iranian ulema and officials, the ayatollah said: Instead of having a negative effect, the adverse propaganda increases the people's faith in the revolution, Islam, and the leader of the revolution. Even those who are dissatisfied and express their dissatisfaction observe the country's interests in these sensitive times. Do not think that those who participated in the Jerusalem Day demonstration did not have dissatisifed people among them. Yes, there were some people who were, as it were, dissatisfied with the conditions in various offices, or who had a grievance against clerics like me, often justifiably. But when they realized that it was in the interests of Islam and that they should act against Israel and the Zionists, you saw how they observed the interests of the country and Islam. One should be thankful that the people have so much awareness and maturity and are conscious of Islam and political issues.

Montazeri added: As you know, the issue at present is not that of Iran; it is solely the issue of the Majlis — an Islamic Majlis, at that. The United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, the Eastern and Western blocs, despite all their differences, feel threatened by Islam at present. A number of U.S. leaders admitted that today it is not communism that threatens them; it is the Islam that has appeared in Iran which they consider a threat. The East and the West as well as their lackeys and all the reactionaries in Islamic countries have joined forces with Israel to crush Islam.

Therefore, you must consider this the Majlis of Islam and see what is in the interests of Islam. First, you deputies should adopt an Islamic mode of behavior. In the meantime you can express your opinion. Express your opinion — but with proof. You should truly try to overcome your emotions. Think what is in the interests of Islam and the country, and then say it.

There must be varied ideas in other countries. What is expected of the Iranian Majlis, however, is different from what is expected of the British House of Commons. They insult each other. But the Iranian Majlis is that of Islam, and Islamic ethics must be observed. It should not be so that those deputies who have differences of opinion quarrel and treat each other incorrectly.

Montazeri added: When the people themselves are aware of the difficulties and when foreign radios mention the difficulties, why should we ourselves not mention them? There would be no harm in mentioning them and it would even be beneficial to the country to do so. This is my personal opinion. You should know that as long as there is no proper criticism, there can be no development. You should mention the difficulties but do not insult each other. Respect each other, since our Majlis proceedings are reflected all over the world. I have heard that in the United States they have formed a committee to appraise what our Majlis says. If they scrutinize the issues so closely, your words and deeds should be Islamic. Do not quarrel amongst yourselves. Even if you have differences of opinion, you should know that you have a grave responsibility. By electing you, the people have placed a great burden on your shoulders. If you were to confront each other and be conservative [as heard] and, God forbid, indulge in nepotism, that would be treason. One should say things but should not stop at merely saying things; one should follow through.

Then, referring to the Majlis' involvement in current affairs, Montazeri stressed: Majlis Defense Committee members should not talk behind closed doors. There would be nothing wrong with the Defense Committee bringing people in from the army, the guard corps or other places, inviting wise people and asking them to prepare plans if the Defense Committee is short of manpower.

In a related comment he said: Our military industry is important. The background of our military industry is very good. We have

many facilities that we have not yet used. If we had used them, we might have supplied all the needs at the fronts.

Montazeri continued: If we had had a Majlis Defense Committee and a defense minister in the beginning when the war was imposed on us, and if they had cooperated with each other instead of stopping at formalities and slogans, they would have taken charge of the military industry. There are many people who are now prepared to do unpaid work in this area. There may be experts in the army and other places with ideas we could use. The Defense Committee should take complete charge of the military industry and find out how to operate it.

In a similar vein, Montazeri said: There would be nothing wrong with the Defense Committee sending two representatives to the fronts to question people in the thick of things, reviewing the situation and preparing a documented report on the war problems. The other Majlis committees should do this too. For example, the Economic Committee should review the country's money and foreign currency. Thus, in the first place the Majlis and its various committees should become active. Those people who are abroad and are experienced should be used. We should not be so self-centred as to sit and judge things ourselves. There are experts in all subjects, such as economics, warfare, military industries, agriculture and so forth. We should not say: We have chosen a government and it should do all the work. The Majlis committees should supervise all the matters through knowledgeable experts. The Judicial Committee should really investigate judicial matters. For example, if we are short of judges, what is the reason? The whys should be investigated; solutions should be found.

In connection with the selection of the cabinet members, Montazeri stressed the point that the duties of the government and what one expects from the government are more important than individuals, saying: If our government were like it was in the past, if the prime minister did not trust his ministers, if the ministers were incompatible with each other and merely thought of neutralizing each other's work, that would be tragic for the country.

Stressing the importance of unity in the cabinet, Montazeri said: If there were a lack of coordination in the government, if they tried to counteract each other's work, that would be sedition. It would not make a coordinated government. If there were no coordination, it would be a great malady -- sedition. We had promised the people the just government of his excellency the Lord of the pious, and it should be so. If the government lacks coordination, whoever the prime minister, so long as the prime minister does not trust the ministers it would not be suitable [sentence as heard]. Then there would be sedition and the continuation of the situation we have had up to now. The government situation has not been very favorable in my opinion. Instead of the deputies being sensitive to individuals, they should be sensitive to the interests of the country and Islam.

As I have just said, our Majlis is that of Islam. The war is between Islam and the infidel. The world is watching this revolution. Although in your opinion and mine nothing may have happened, the world is taking note. They have invested a great deal in the revolution. They pay money to radio and TV, the papers and the hypocrits. Do not think that it is costing them nothing. It is obvious that the revolution has dealt them a great blow and that they are frightened of the future of Islam. Thanks to this revolution, the people of Afghanistan became brave, the people of South Lebanon rose against Israel, the people rose in the Philippines, and so they did in other places. They realize that thanks to this revolution, the people have become aware. A hue and cry has gone up in all Islamic countries. Thus, we must not jeopardize the reputation of Islam and the country for the sake of self-interest and the interests of our friends, trying to see that our friends become governors, generals, ministers and so forth; No. That is wrong.

He said: I have already told them this. One of our problems is the matter of slogans. One shouts a slogan; another likes it; it gradually reaches the papers. Do not act this way. As much as possible, try to act so that the country is run wisely. After 7 years, we must reduce the number of slogans and engage ourselves in what is in the interests of Islam and the country. Wisedom dictates that if we are not experts, we should use experts from outside the Majlis committees. Invite them. Many of them are prepared to work for nothing, be it for the war, the industries, agriculture, the economy. We must consult with others.

May God give success to me and you all so that we can serve Islam and our country in these sensitive times.

Montazeri Addresses Seminar of Friday Imams

LD221306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] In a speech at a seminar of provincial councils of Friday imams which was held next to his residence in Qom today, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri thanked their eminences the Friday imams. Addressing the self-sacrificing and vigilant officials and people of the country, he said:

One of the issues to which the esteemed officials should pay great attention is the important role of Friday prayers in stabilizing the revolution and the system and keeping the people present on the scene. The esteemed Friday imams who are, in fact, the representatives of his great eminence the imam, have so far had the greatest role in guiding and encouraging the people and in neutralizing the conspiracies of internal and external enemies of the revolution. It is because of these glorious Friday prayer ceremonies that if the difficulties of the war and the revolution and the shortages resulting from them have left negative effects in some places, these ill effects will be removed, the people's will-power strengthened, and weaknesses and frailties eradicated. It is on this basis that the spiritual worth and value of this sacred ritual and its extraordinary role should be fully appreciated.

He further added: If it were not for these great Friday prayers, it is not clear whether the revolution would have easily evolved to its present form. We ask the noble people to try to maintain the sanctity and spirituality of this function and the sublime status of Friday imams in the same way that they have upheld the glory of the Friday prayer gatherings. If some places have minor differences among themselves concerning political and other issues, they should not allow these differences to be dragged

into the Friday prayers and the holy function of Friday imams so that, God forbid, they do not become embroiled in the differences.

Their eminences the Friday imams should also pay attention to this fact and, as far as possible, they should not involve themselves in such issues so that they can give greater assistance to Islam and to the revolution.

He said: One should not expect the Friday imams to be infallible. To us only the 14 holy souls were infallible and innocent. Apart from them, all of us are fallible and are liable to make mistakes. If, for instance, the people had certain expectations of a Friday imam and those expectations have not been satisfied, or if he has committed an offence, of if there are differences of opinions with a Friday imam, these issues should not harm the glory of the Friday prayers.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then offered some guidelines about the need for simple living by Friday imams and the need for holding weekly meetings with the officials of the region and the district in order to solve people's problems. He also urged them to be dignified in their remarks, to have an open mind in their dealings with the officials and the people, to engage in study and research for their Friday prayer sermons, to continue their religious studies, to engage in religious instruction as far as possible, to be in constant contact with Friday and congregational prayer leaders and other religious figures of their town and district, to have complete respect for them and delegate certain missionary work and other religious activities to them, not to get involved in executive affairs and in appointments and dismissals or in unnecessary and inappropriate recommendations, and to refrain from any action which might expose them to allegations or be detrimental to their spiritual standing, as well as setting aside a few hours each day for meeting with members of the public and those individuals who have certain difficulties.

Their eminences Ayatollahs Meshkini, Khatami, Malakuti, and Shirazi were also present at this first meeting of the seminar of provincial councils of Friday imams which was held at the invitation of the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams.

Red Cresent: Iran To Aid Reconstruction of Tripoli

LD222151 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — Iran will rebuild schools and mosques damaged during the recent clashes between Muslims and leftist militia in Lebanon's port city of Tripoli, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghayuri, imam's representative at the Red Crescent Society.

Ghayuri visited Tripoli last week, accompanying an Iranian delegationand talked with Towhid movement's leader, Shaykh Sayd Sha'ban.

The three week war between Muslims and a coalition of Lebanese leftist forces ended October 4, leaving hundreds of dead and wounded.

Ghayuri said at a time when almost all physicians had left Tripoli the presence of Iranian doctors, dispatched there by the Red Crescent Society, was very vital in curing the wounded of the recent clashes.

The head of the Iranian delegation, Ayatollah Jannati had earlier said that Iran might help to rebuild mosques, schools and probably houses in the war stricken city.

He also added that Iran would continue its assistance and use its influence to end tension in the city in cooperation with Syrian officials.

Friday Imam in Lebanon Praises Muslim Strugglers

LD222232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Sayyid 'Abbas Musavi, the Friday Imam of Ba'labakk in Lebanon, yesterday in a speech in Imam 'Ali Mosque in Sidon, referred to the growing Islamic movements in Lebanon and said: As the result of the valor of heroic Muslim strugglers, a new movement has come into being in Lebanon which from the start has delivered deadly blows upon America, Israel, and France. Continuing his speech, expressing worries about current solutions for the Lebanese crisis, he described them as traps for the Islamic movement and added: Every acceptable solution should deliver blows to the Phalangist forces which are the collaborators of the Zionist regime.

The next speaker at these ceremonies, which were arranged in Sidon as a memorial meeting for the martyrs of Islamic Resistance Movement, was Shaykh Muharram 'Arifi, a combative ulema of the movement in Lebanon. In his speech, he called for the continuation of Islamic resistance and for increasing the fight against the Zionist enemy and said: We reject any kind of discussion with the Phalangists.

On the other hand, during the mourning ceremonies for the months of Muharram [when Imam Husayn was killed] and Safar, which were held by the Hizballah of Lebanon in the Hoseyniyyeh [mosque where mourning ceremonies for Imam Husayn's martyrdom are held] in Burj al Barajinah in which a large number of Lebanese Muslims took part, Sayyid Hasan Nasrullah, one of the clergymen of that region, said: According to the information we have received, the leftist and communist parties that were taking part in the war against the people of Tripoli are now preparing to crush Islam in West Beirut and to bring about leftist domination in that area. He added: The recent remarks by the leaders of the leftist parties against the Muslims show that once again the struggle against the Lebanese Muslims has been entrusted to these parties.

The Lebanese clergyman added: Despite our belief in the apostasy of those parties, we have refrained from any domestic clashes. The moment we feel that Islam has been endangered, however, at that moment we would not regard silence to be justified. Therefore, once again we tell those parties: The moment you regard as appropriate for the destruction of Islam in West Beirut, that moment would undoubtedly be the moment of your own destruction, because we are still imbued with the spirit of

'Ashura [the day of martyrdom of Imam Husayn] and are ready to confront any kind of danger.

Radio Suggests Gulf Take Stand Against Iraq
GF221918 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 85

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the spokesman of the ruling regime in Iraq said that Iraqi warplanes launched its 29th raid in 2 months on Khark Island. International and Gulf oil sources affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently exporting its oil at full production capacity, and that the process of loading the oil from the Iranian ports, especially from the main Iranian oil terminal at Khark, is continuing normally.

The Iraqi rulers were the party which brought chaos and disturbances to this vital region. The latest in this regard was the attack by Iraqi warplanes against the Panamanian tanker near Bahrain last Friday.

Brothers, this fact concerns those parties which plan military strategies in the Persian Gulf region. In particular, we refer to the GCC defense ministers conference, which convened in Kuwait to discuss Gulf security. The logical and objective method for maintaining security and stability in the Gulf region demand confronting the ruling regime in Baghdad by all means. This regime adopts the method of spreading chaos and instability in the Persian Gulf region. The facts are known to everybody in this regard.

Will the Persian Gulf countries take a decisive stance toward this issue since they are the direct party affected by the continuation and escalation of the state of insecurity and instability?

GCC Urged To Adopt Honest Stand on Iraq
GF230652 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Oct 85

[From "Pause With the Events" program]

[Text] The fourth conference of the GCC defense ministers began its meetings in Kuwait last Sunday [20 October] with the aim of discussing a joint defense strategy. In the opening session, the [word indistinct] defense minister referred to precautionary defense measures to achieve security in the region, which he said was facing numerous perils. The results of these closed-door discussions are still not known. However, an event which occurred on the eve of the conference is noteworthy.

Last Friday [18 October], it was reported that a Panamanian ship traveling from Kuwait to Bahrain was hit by an Exocet missile 60 km from the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah. The missile, which was fired by a Mirage aircraft belonging to the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime, demonstrated again the dimensions of the crimes and aggressions of this regime in the waters of the Persian Gulf. As the countries of the southern Persian Gulf remained silent concerning this aggression, Kuwaiti newspapers quoted Bahraini shipping sources as saying that Iraq was responsible for the attack on the Panamanian ship in the Persian Gulf.

This is not the first time that the ruling 'Aflaqist regime in Iraq has attacked ships carrying goods for the countries of the Persian Gulf. The interests of the defenders of the Iraqi regime were often subjected to attacks by [word indistinct] planes in the waters of the Persian Gulf. The question is, what are the factors that lead to the continuation of the policies of the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the continued existence of this regime in the region?

Previous events demonstrate that the stands of the GCC members concerning the actions carried out by the Iraqi regime were based on disregard and, in some cases, support.

The attack by the ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq on a ship carrying Kuwaiti goods on the eve of the convention of the GCC defense ministers in Kuwait is, in fact, a result of the stands of the GCC members and the method by which they confront the crimes of the 'Aflaqist Baghdad regime in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

While considering all these facts, if the GCC wishes to end the crisis in the waters of the Persian Gulf, then it has to reconsider its stands and adopt honest stands instead of supporting the aggressive Ba'thist regime or resorting to prolixity vis-a-vis its aggressions which threaten the interests of the people of the region.

Radio Attacks Cologne Radio Commentary on War
GF230729 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the latest developments in the war the Iraqi regime imposed on the Islamic Revolution in Iran were given prominent coverage in the commentaries and news reports aired by dependent foreign radios last week. By exaggerating the Iraqi regime's disruptive moves in the Persian Gulf, they endeavored to convey the view that the fate of the war imposed on the Muslim Iranian people by the Saddam regime will be determined in the Persian Gulf region.

The foreign radios, which, within their analysis of developments in the Persian Gulf, have beend escribing the attacks on commercial ships as a show of strength and military move by the Iraqi regime, have failed to take notice of the major naval exercises Iran carried out in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. They only mentioned it briefly from time to time. Obviously, the brief references, coupled with the rustle-like reporting on the naval exercises, is in line with the hostile policy behind the reporting of the imperialist media.

Here is what Cologne Radio said in a commentary it aired last Friday, 17 October, in connection with the beginning of the 6th year of the imposed war:

With the beginning of its 6th year, the war between Iran and Iraq has reached a point where it has come to be known by the names of the two countries. In the event Iraq succeeds in halting or reducing Iran's oil exports for a long time, this will definitely create changes for determining the fate of the war.

Cologne Radio went on to describe the changes it referred to as leading to defeat. It said:

The biggest Iranian naval exercises began in October. They consisted of simultaneous attacks on coastal units and the landing of troops. With this, Iran demonstrated that if its oil exports are temporarily stopped, it will seal off the Strait of Hormuz. Although it is not known whether Iran will succeed in sealing off the Strait of Hormuz, Western experts believe that broadening the war is a serious possibility.

In its commentary, Cologne Radio tried to present the Iraqi regime's operations against nonmilitary targets in the Persian Gulf as a factor determining the fate of that regime's onslaught against the Islamic Republic of Iran while describing the possible blocking of the Strait of Hormuz by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a mere endeavor. Just as in the case of other media organs dependent on imperialist media, Cologne Radio tried to explain the Iraqi regime's attacks on the oil pumping installations on Khark Island as a move to halt Iranian oil exports in the Persian Gulf. As such, Cologne Radio endeavored to divert the attention of the world peoples from the genuine battlefronts of the war Saddam imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Undoubtedly, however, even if Iran's oil exports from the Persian Gulf region are halted, the war will continue on a broader scale — one that will engulf the entire region. The continuation of the dangerous situation concerning this sealane which is vitally important to the world will result in the spreading of unrest toward the southern shores of the region. This is not just a presumption by Cologne Radio. It will be realized in the event the disturbance caused by the Saddam regime in the Persian Gulf is maintained.

AFP: Iran, PRC Negotiating Missile Sales in Beijing
HK230619 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 23 Oct 85

[By Pierre-Antoine Donnet]

[Text] Beijing, Oct 23 (AFP) — China has had at least two rounds of talks with Iran on the sale of Chinese surface-to-surface missiles and the negotiations are "progressing rapidly," a highly reliable source here said today.

The source said that officials from the two countries met in June and July at Tehran's embassy and the Defense Ministry here to discuss Beijing's terms for the sale of older-generation Scud 1A and 1B missiles.

The Chinese and the Iranians both expressed satisfaction after the last talks and negotiations since have been "progressing rapidly," the source said.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry here declined immediate comment.

Beijing says that it has maintained a strict neutrality in Iran's more than 5-year-war with neighboring Iraq and has denied reports that it had sold arms to Tehran.

The Scud 1A and 1B missiles, with a range of 130 to 270 kilometers (81 to 169 miles), are liquid-propulsion tactical missiles of Soviet design dating back to the 1960's. But China still produces them.

Western diplomats here said that although technologically outmoded, they have a large destructive capacity and can carry a chemical warhead.

The source said that the first series of talks between China and Iran on the missiles began a few days before the arrival here on June 27 of Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mr Rafsanjani spent 4 days in China on the first visit here by a senior leader from Tehran since the Iranian revolution in 1979.

At that time, he did not explicitly deny Iran was receiving arms from the Chinese, telling a news conference only that he was in no position to say since he was not involved in defense matters.

Before Mr Rafsanjani's arrival, however, an Iranian source had said that the question of Chinese arms sales could be raised during the parliamentary leader's talks here.

A Western correspondent in Beijing saw an unmarked transport plane take off from the capital's old airport on July 1. Airport personnel said the aircraft was headed for Iran.

Western diplomats here also said that a former Iranian defense minister made a quick and unpublicised visit to Beijing in August.

The Iraqi military attache in Beijing left a year ago and was not replaced, while his Iranian counterpart still works at Tehran's embassy.

FRG Ship Released After No Iraqi-Bound Cargo Found
LD221656 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — The German ship, the *Ville d'Aurore* was released at 1600 hours local time (1230 GMT) Tuesday, after her cargo was inspected, announced a naval official here today.

During the inspection, no Iraqi-bound cargo was found and the ship was permitted to sail on for a Kuwaiti port.

The 12,000-ton ship suspected of carrying military hardware for Iraq was intercepted and directed towards an Iranian port on October 14. The 21-man crew of the *Ville d'Aurore* chartered by France were German, Italian and Filipino.

This month at least four ships have been intercepted and their cargo inspected. Those with strategic goods destined for Iraq were confiscated.

The Islamic Republic has announced it will seize any Iraq-bound cargo in the Persian Gulf waters, capable of strengthening the military capability of the Bangdad regime in its war against Iran.

IRGC Receives Support Vessels 21 Oct

LD221654 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Oct. 22, IRNA — Two support vessels recently purchased by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) anchored here Monday after 44 days of voyage of 6,000 kms in international waters.

One of the vessels, a 1,000-ton landing craft has the capacity of carrying 7,000 tons of water or fuel and 300 tons of machinery and warfare equipment.

The landing craft named *Khorramshahr* is equipped with two engines each with 600 horse power and a speed of 11 knots.

Another vessel, *Dezful* tug-boat, also joined IRGC's naval unit to strengthen its military capability.

A regional IRGC commander said that some other vessels purchased by Iran will join the unit shortly to increase the military strength of the IRGC in the sea and in protecting the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, the morning daily *ABRAR* reported that the vessels, purchased from the Netherlands, could carry tanks, personnel carriers, and forces. The vessels are capable of carrying amphibious and supply operations, the daily added.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,266

LD221702 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants in a limited offensive in Sumar Tuesday, inflicted considerable casualties and losses on Iraqi troops, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Tuesday.

In its communique Number 2266, the command said that, elsewhere in western fronts more than 18 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and six bunkers, one mortar launcher and one vehicle of the enemy were destroyed during artillery fighting over the past 24 hours.

Iranian fighters' artillery fire forced back an Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate their positions in Sumar, the command said.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, exchange of artillery fire over the past 24 hours, killed or wounded a number of Iraqi troops, destroying several bunkers of the enemy.

All Iraqi air operations throughout the fronts on Monday were checked, the communique said.

The communique added that exchange of fire between Iran's Muslim troops and Iraqi forces continued in the southern fronts being more intense in Kushk over the past 24 hours, during which Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damages.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts, the communique said, a number of Iraqi troops were killed and several of their bunkers destroyed during artillery duels with Iran's Gendarmerie Forces who also silenced the enemy's artillery.

Iraq's long-range artillery fire hit Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours, causing slight damages in Abadan, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Casualties Mount

LD221744 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 22 Oct 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov., Oct. 22, IRNA — Iranian scouts in the western Sumar war front reported Iraqi ambulances rushing to the area of a Monday night offensive and said enemy casualties have risen from the more than 170 reported earlier.

IRNA correspondent from Sumar said Iran's Muslim combatants launched the limited offensive despite an Iraqi alert in the area 125 km east of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Iran has been launching small-scale hit-and-run offensives in various sectors of the 1,200 km war front since last spring in a bid to wear down Iraqi morale and inflict casualties and damages on the enemy.

Earlier reports said two battalions of the Iraqi Army were totally smashed and 170 Iraqi troops killed or wounded in a successful operation that started at 23:00 hours (19:30 GMT) Monday.

Iran's muslim combatants have launched three small-scale offensives this month, two in the southern Faw region and a third in the northern front where strategic heights were liberated in mid September's Qader Operation.

The Islamic Republic has vowed to continue its defence war against Iraqi Ba'th regime until Saddam Husayn is toppled for starting the war in 1980.

'Ashura IV' Operation Launched

LD231108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 oct 85

[Text] At 0200 today the self-sacrificing forces of Islam started the glorious "Ashura IV" operations. In these operations, which according to our correspondent were launched in the Haw Al-Huwayzah region with the participation of Muslim Iraqi mujahidin and popular Iraqi mobilization forces, the fighters of Islam succeeded in inflicting heavy blows upon the enemy. In these operations, which took place in the northern tip of Umm al-Najah Valley, the fighters of Islam, by attacking the positions of the

Zionist enemy, succeeded during the first hours of the operations in occupying the command headquarters of the 1st company of 117 brigade, and in killing, wounding, or capturing personnel of the 2d and 3d companies of the same battalion, as well as one enemy reconnaissance company. Captured enemy personnel total 44.

IRNA on 'Ashura'

LD231245 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Oct. 23, IRNA — The Iranian forces in an attack on Iraqi forces in Hawr al-Huwayzah operational area, southern Iran, Tuesday night, killed or wounded a large number of Iraqi forces.

Badr Brigade, composed of Iraqi Muslim mujahidin, also took part in this attack. An outpost of the Iraqi forces was taken over in this offensive.

Iran's Muslim combatants liberated 16 Iraqi outposts early Wednesday when they advanced 50 square km in the southern Hawr al-Huwayzah marshlands, reports reaching Tehran said.

At least 44 Iraqi troops have been captured in the Iraqi marshlands about 100 km west of the Iranian city of Ahvaz in the offensive code-named Ashura.

Iraqi forces counterattacked three times in a three hour period around noon Wednesday but were forced to retreat with heavy casualties, reports said.

The third and fourth companies of the fifth battalion in the 117th Brigade belonging to the 29th Army has been completely destroyed and some 250 Iraqis killed or wounded, said the reports.

"Iraqi outposts in the upper parts of the marshlands are littered with the enemy dead" they said.

Some of the outposts liberated in the offensive are Um-Lifeh Salameh, Al-Jiab, Al-Matar, Al-Fasleh, Al-Majre, Um-Al-Na'ameh, Al-Tavil, Um-Al-Mesah, Al-Tarar, and Shat Abu-Azeyeh.

Reports said the combatants used creative marine-battle techniques to pass through the enemy radars and booby traps.

The day before the Muslim combatants launched a small-scale offensive in the western Sumar area.

Afghan Mujahidin Kill 60 Soviet-DRA Troops

GF230853 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked Soviet occupation forces and the forces of the ruling regime in Afghanistan in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan and destroyed five tanks and armored vehicles belonging to them. They killed 60 troops.

Reports from Afghanistan indicate that hundreds of the troops of the ruling regime in Afghanistan recently deserted the regime's army and joined the Afghan Muslim revolutioanries. This comes at a time when the Soviet forces are making plans to launch an extensive attack against the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in the Panjshir Valley. The reports add that the ruling regime in Afghanistan last week transported to Kabul the corpses of hundreds of its troops killed by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in the Panjshir Valley.